

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00839 241544Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 L-03 CPR-01 FBO-02 A-01 SY-05
SCA-01 /027 W
-----241914 029093 /41
R 241505Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9881

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, SW, SOPN
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR USE OF EMBASSY PREMISES
TO MAKE MOTION PICTURE

1. SUMMARY. WE HAVE HAD PROBES ABOUT THE USE OF EMBASSY PREMISES FOR FILMING OF SOME SCENES FROM A FORTHCOMING MOTION PICTURE STARRING SAMMY DAVIS JR. THE EMBASSY'S ATTITUDE HAS BEEN NEGATIVE BUT WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASKED FOR A FORMAL REPLY. THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR SOME MONTHS THE EMBASSY HAS HAD INFORMAL PROBES ABOUT POSSIBLE FILMING IN AND AROUND THE CHANCERY OF PARTS OF A MOTION PICTURE, "THE FIFTH DAY" (EARLIER CALLED "AN EYE FOR AN EYE"), STARRING SAMMY DAVIS JR. THE FILM IS TO BE MADE LATER THIS YEAR IN STOCKHOLM. IT CONCERNS A US VIETNAM DESERTER (DAVIS) AND HIS INADVERTANT INVOLVEMENT WITH A GROUP OF TERRORISTS WHO TAKE HOSTAGES IN THE US EMBASSY IN ORDER TO STEAL A "SECRET CODE." THE PLOT CALLS FOR DAVIS TO REALIZE AT THE END THAT HE IS BEING USED BY THE TERRORISTS FOR BAD ENDS AND TO FOIL THE SCHEME.

3. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR USING EMBASSY PREMISES HAS BEEN RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00839 241544Z

PHOTOGRAPHERS DID SHOW UP UNEXPECTEDLY ONE DAY TAKING SOME BACKGROUND STILL SHOTS AROUND THE RESIDENCE. THE INFORMAL PROBES CULMINATED DURING SAMMY DAVIS'S APPEARANCE IN STOCKHOLM FEBRUARY 17, WHEN HE TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WOULD BE CALLING HIM ON FEB. 23. DAVIS LATER SENT AMBASSADOR A COPY OF SCRIPT BUT HE STOPPED SHORT OF ASKING OPENLY FOR PERMISSION TO USE CHANCERY FOR

SOME FILMING. (AS OF MID-DAY FEB. 24 HE HAD NOT YET CALLED.)

4. AMBASSADOR HAS FELT THAT BECAUSE OF SENSITIVE SUBJECT MATTER OF FILM--NOT TO SPEAK OF SECURITY AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN LENDING EMBASSY PREMISES TO A FILMMAKER--IT WOULD BE IMPROPER TO ALLOW USE OF EMBASSY FOR ANY FILMING.

5. FURTHER PUBLIC ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO FILM FEB. 24 WHEN LOCAL PRESS CARRIED REPORT OF "PROTEST" BY THE AMERICAN DESERTERS ORGANIZATION IN STOCKHOLM ASKING SWEDISH FILM INSTITUTE NOT TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO FILM ON GROUNDS THAT IT WAS EXPLOITATION AND SLANDER OF WAR RESISTERS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION IS THAT DEPARTMENTAL POLICY WOULD STRONGLY DISCOURAGE ANY FILM-MAKING ON CHANCERY GROUNDS, AND PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF FILM OF THIS NATURE INVOLVING TERRORISM AND THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES DURING OCCUPATION OF THE EMBASSY. IN ORDER TO BE ON FIRM GROUND IN CASE FORMAL REQUEST DOES COME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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